

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5403
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

CONFIDENTIAL LIMA 5244

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PE SHUM
SUBJECT: DISTURBANCES IN AREQUIPA

REF: LIMA 5146

1. STUDENT DISTURBANCES ALLEGEDLY IN PROTEST AGAINST GOP ECONOMIC
MEASURES BROKE OUT JUNE 21 AT A SECONDARY SCHOOL IN AREQUIPA AND
QUICKLY SPREAD TO SAN AGUSTIN UNIVERSITY. POLICE MOVED IN TO PUT DOWN
THE DISORDER ARRESTING SCORES OF STUDENTS IN THE PROCESS. ONE OBSERVER

STATED THAT MANY STUDENTS WERE HELD IN A LOCAL SOCCER STADIUM PENDING
DETERMINATION OF THEIR CASES. THE CITY CENTER REMAINED CALM BUT
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SUSPENDED CLASSES INDEFINITELY IN AREQUIPA
AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE AGAINST FURTHER STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH

INVARIABLY RESULT IN STREET CLASHES WITH THE POLICE.

2. THE AREQUIPA DEPARTMENTAL LABOR FEDERATION, AFFILIATED TO THE
MOSCOW-LINE CGTP, ANNOUNCED A 48-HOUR STRIKE BEGINNING 6:00 A.M.
JUNE 22. THE GOP, IN TURN, SEVERELY WARNED UNIONS THAT STRIKES WERE
ILLEGAL UNDER THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, AND LEADERS WOULD FACE
CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ILLEGAL ACTS. OBSERVERS IN AREQUIPA TELL
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THE EMBASSY THAT THE JUNE 22 STRIKE CALL IS BEING PARTIALLY HONORED
BANKS ARE CLOSED (AND SOME CGTP AFFILIATED BANK UNION LEADERS HAVE
BEEN ARRESTED), FEWER BUSES AND TAXIS ARE RUNNING, AND MANY BUSINESSES

ARE NOT OPERATING. HOWEVER, MOST MERCHANTS ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS,
AT THE SAME TIME PREPARED TO CLOSE AT THE FIRST INDICATION OF
DISTURBANCES. WITH SCHOOLS SHUT DOWN THE CITY IS QUIET, AND TO

ALL APPEARANCES THE MORNING OF JUNE 22, PEACEFUL. YET EMBASSY
UNDERSTANDS THE GOP MAY TAKE PRECAUTIONS AND PLACE AREQUIPA UNDER
CURFEW.

3. LIMA REMAINS CALM ALTHOUGH SEVERAL BOMB EXPLOSIONS WERE HEARD
(NO REPORTS OF DAMAGE OR INJURY) THE EVENING OF JUNE 21. CUZCO
REMAINS UNDER CURFEW AND IS QUIET, ALTHOUGH STUDENT DISTURBANCES
APPARENTLY OCCURRED AT A NEARBY TOWN CUASING IT TO BE PLACED UNDER
CURFEW. MANY OF THE WELL OVER 100 STUDENTS AND LABOR AGITATORS
ARRESTED LAST WEEK REMAIN UNDER DETENTION. RUMORS OF STUDENT
DEATHS REMAIN UNCONFIRMED.

4. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE JUNE 21 TAKING ISSUE
WITH CGTP VERSION OF EVENTS IN CUZCO (REFTEL) AS A "DISTORTION AND
MAGNIFICATION OF EVENTS." THE GOP BLAimed LDEADERS OF THE CUZCO
FEDERATION OF WORKERS (A CGTP AFFILIATE) FOR "INDUCING GROUPS OF
STUDENTS AND WORKERS TO SUBVERT ORDER." THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
CALLED IN CGTP LEADERS TO DISCUSS THEIR TENDENTIOUS AND "DISTORTED"
VERSION OF THE CUZCO EVENTS AND TO WARN THEM THAT THE GOVERNMENT
WILL NOT BE COERCED INTO MODIFYING ITS POLICIES.

5. GOP SOURCES TELL THE EMBASSY THAT THEY EXPECT SPORADIC DIS-
TURBANCES AND LABOR TROUBLES OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS BUT
THEY HOPE TO ISOLATE AND CONTAIN THEM CITY BY CITY. WITH PRU-
DENT BUT FORCEFUL APPLICATION OF EMERGENCY DECREES THE GOP
HOPES TO PREVENT THUS FAR LOCALIZED ANTI-GOVERNMENT DISTURBANCES
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FROM COALESCING INTO A NATIONWIDE PHENOMENON. THE WELL ORGANIZED
APRA PARTY SEEMS TO BE SUPPORTING THE GOP IN THAT TASK, AND EVEN
THE MOSCOW-LINE CGTP LABOR CONFEDERATION HAS APPARENTLY MADE
NO EFFORT TO COORDINATE PROTESTS OR STRIKE CALLS OF ITS DEPART-
MENT-LEVEL FEDERATIONS OR ITSELF INITIATE LIM-LEVEL OR NATIONAL
LABOR DISTURBANCES.

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Message Attributes

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